

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCCT-01

/088 W

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R 111751Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4310

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XE

SUBJECT: ALLON INTERVIEW IN DIE WELT, FEBRUARY 26

REF: LONDON 17217

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTTEL, THE EMBASSY HAS TRANSLATED (UNOFFICIAL) ALLON'S INTERVIEW WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN DIE WELT FEBRUARY 26.

2. THE INTERVIEW WAS ENTITLED, "I ACCEPT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PALESTINIAN NATION (VOLK)." THE PORTION DEALING WITH

THE PALESTINE QUESTION FOLLOWS IN A QUESTION/ANSWER
FORMAT.

3. QUOTE: WELT: YOU HAVE PALESTINIAN DISCUSSION
PARTNERS TOO, OR ARE THERE NO PALESTINIANS FOR YOU?

ALLON: WE HAVE THOUGHT THROUGH THE ARAB PROBLEM UP
TO THE POINT WHERE WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED OF INCLUDING
IN OUR CALCULATIONS THE IDEA OF A PALESTINIAN IDENTITY;
IN THIS CONNECTION, WE PROCEED AT THE SAME TIME FROM
THE GOAL OF SECURE BORDERS FOR ISRAEL. EVEN IN THE
PRESENT SITUATION THIS IS QUITE POSSIBLE.

WELT: COULD YOU EXPLAIN MORE PRECISELY THE KEY TERM
"PALESTINIAN IDENTITY"?

ALLON: IN ORDER TO DO THAT I HAVE TO GO A BIT INTO
THE PAST. THE CONFLICT BEGAN AS EARLY AS 1947
WITH THE FOUNDATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. I BELIEVE
THAT THIS CONFLICT -- WHICH HAS CONTINUED EVER SINCE --
CAN BE BROUGHT TO AN END ONLY WITH A SOLUTION THAT
PRODUCES AN ANSWER TO THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM.

IN ALL HISTORY A PALESTINIAN PEOPLE"
IN THE MEANING OF THE WORD WE KNOW DID NOT EXIST.
EVEN THOUGH PALESTINE AS A STATE NEVER EXISTED, WE
NEVERTHELESS BELIEVE THAT THE PALESTINIANS EXIST AS A
CONCEPT AND ARE ABOUT TO BECOME A PEOPLE (VOLK) -- A
GROUP WITH ITS OWN POLITICAL INTERESTS. I ACCEPT THIS
PHENOMENON. IT IS PRIMARILY LOOKING TOWARD OUR
NEIGHBOR IN THE EAST, JORDAN, WHERE MOST PALESTINIANS
ARE CONCENTRATED, THAT THIS IDENTITY OF THE
PALESTINIANS MUST FIND EXPRESSION.

AS FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL I
WOULD NOT RECOMMEND TO MY GOVERNMENT ANY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN US AND OUR ARAB NEIGHBORS THAT WOULD NOT
INCLUDE A CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION TO THIS ARAB-
PALESTINIAN IDENTITY.

ONE MUST NOT EQUATE THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE, WHICH I PERSONALLY KNOW VERY WELL, WITH THE
TERRORISTS. MOST OF THEM ARE CONSTRUCTIVE PEOPLE WHO
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SEEK A SOLUTION FOR THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE. IT IS
DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT THIS SOLUTION WILL LOOK LIKE,
BUT ONE THING IS CERTAIN: THE PALESTINIANS WILL HAVE A
SAY IN THIS RESPECT.

WELT: THAT IS: PALESTINIANS-YES, PLO-NO:

ALLON: I COINED THIS FORMULA.

WELT: BUT WHEN THE PALESTINIANS ARE A NATION (VOLK),
WHERE DOES THEIR COUNTRY LIE?

ALLON: ORIGINALLY THE WHOLE AREA WAS CALLED EWETZ-
ISRAEL. PALESTINE IS A BRITISH INVENTION -- THE WHOLE
REACHES FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE IRAQ BORDER,
FROM LEBANON TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT.

IN THE COURSE OF RECENT HISTORY PALESTINE WAS
DIVIDED THREE TIMES: THE FIRST TIME IN WORLD WAR I
THEN AGAIN IN 1922 INTO THE SO-CALLED EAST BANK AND
WEST BANK -- AT THE SUGGESTION, INCIDENTALLY, OF

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4311

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WINSTON CHURCHILL WHO WAS THEN IN THE COLONIAL OFFICE
-- AND FINALLY IN 1947 WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS ORDERED
THE FINAL DIVISION.

TODAY THE SITUATION IS THE FOLLOWING: MOST
PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN TRANSJORDAN, THAT IS, EAST OF THE
JORDAN RIVER, ARE PALESTINIANS. THIS IS WHY THE
PROBLEM REDUCES ITSELF TO THE CONCRETE QUESTION:
WHERE ARE ISRAEL'S PROPER EASTERN BORDERS TO BE DRAWN?
EAST OF THE ISRAELI BORDER LIES THE HOMELAND OF THE
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PALESTINIANS. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A PEACE
SETTLEMENT WITH OUR EASTERN NEIGHBORS THE PALESTINIAN
IDENTITY FINALLY WILL HAVE TO FIND ITS NATIONAL
EXPRESSION -- ITS FULL EXPRESSION AS AN INDEPENDENT
STATE. WHETHER THIS STATE WILL BE A MONARCHY OR A
REPUBLIC IS NOT OUR BUSINESS, BUT THE CONCERN OF THE
PALESTINIANS.

WELT: "PALESTINIANS-YES, PLO-NO" YOU SAID. WITH WHOM
ARE YOU GOING TO NEGOTIATE WHEN YOU HAVE TO NEGOTIATE
WITH THE PALESTINIANS?

ALLON: THE TIME WILL COME WHEN THERE IS HOPE FOR
PEACE, AND THEN A CONSTRUCTIVE REPRESENTATION WILL GROW
OUT OF THIS PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY, A REPRESENTATION
THAT WILL SEEK FRUITFUL SOLUTIONS. WE WILL REFUSE TO
RECOGNIZE THE PLO NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS INFAMOUS
TERRORIST METHODS BUT ALSO FOR A DIFFERENT
REASON; IF WE WERE TO COOPERATE WITH THE PLO WE WOULD
WEAKEN AND PARALYZE THE MODERATE PALESTINIAN
FORCES, AND IT IS OUR OBLIGATION NOT TO DISCOURAGE
THE MODERATES. UNQUOTE.
HILLENBRAND

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